
European Commission consults on whistleblower protection

The European Commission (EC) has launched a [public consultation](#) on whistleblower protection.

The EC wants to know if more protection is needed for individuals that may come across information about acts or omissions which represent a threat or harm to the public interest (such as fraud, corruption, tax evasion, misuse of personal data, unlawful use of private or inside information, money laundering, etc.).

The EC's definition of whistleblowing goes beyond the reporting of illegal activities as it also includes the disclosure of information on a threat or harm to the 'public interest'. This approach goes beyond currently existing EU sectorial whistleblowing legislation, ranging from audit and money laundering to trade secrets, market abuse, capital requirements and other instruments regulating financial services.

The deadline for responding is 29 May 2017.

Next steps

The Commission is currently assessing whether further EU action is needed and the results of this consultation will feed into this work.